

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT 13-14
CITY OF WILLMAR
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013

A meeting of the Public Works/Safety Committee was called to order at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2013, by Vice Chair Audrey Nelson at the City Office Building. Members present were: Council Members Bruce DeBlieck, Steve Ahmann and Tim Johnson (substituting for Ron Christianson). Also present were: Bruce Peterson, Planning and Development Services Director; Dave Wyffels, Police Chief; David Little, "West Central Tribune," and Janell Sommers, Recording Secretary.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Little commented on how well the construction of the Trott Avenue Quiet Zone turned out.

2. DANGEROUS WEAPONS ORDINANCE – CONTINUED...:

The dangerous weapons ordinance was referred back to committee by the Council from the hearing. Chief Wyffels researched ordinances of other cities similar to Willmar and found a variety of ways to regulate the issue of archery shooting. The committee reviewed the wording of several ordinances and favored what is used by the City of Hutchinson, specifically "it is unlawful for any person to shoot a bow and arrow except in the physical education program in a school supervised by a member of its faculty, a community-wide supervised class or event specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, or a bow and arrow range authorized by the Council." The committee also discussed possible locations to develop an approved archery range such as the former Wastewater Treatment Plant with the inclusion of archery groups in the development of the site.

Chief Wyffels stated the City Attorney, Robert Scott, is requesting the word "embrace" be changed to "prohibit" in Sections 10-54 (c and d). A motion was made by Council Member DeBlieck, seconded by Council Member Ahmann, and passed for the following

RECOMMENDATION:

To send the ordinance back to staff to draft wording similar to that used by the City of Hutchinson, have the word "embrace" changed to "prohibit" in Sections 10-54 (c and d), and bring the sample ordinance back to committee for further review.

3. MINNWEST LIFT STATION/LAKELAND DRIVE SANITARY SEWER PROJECT UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

Acting Public Works Director Peterson updated the committee on the MinnWest Lift Station/Lakeland Drive Sanitary Sewer Project. Staff continues to meet with the design consultants on the project. The lift station design is going well and should be completed in time to include it, and the northerly force main, in the 2014 Projects.

In summary, the original cost estimates for replacing the sanitary sewer along Lakeland Drive and reconstructing the roadway became significantly higher than anticipated. Staff and the consultant evaluated just what needs to be completed at this time by entering into a contract to televise the sanitary sewer line. The overall condition of the line, viewed through televising, indicated it is in reasonably good condition, except for several impediments they are proposing be removed by cleaning. If that is successful, the line would not need to be replaced in its entirety. There would then be no need to proceed with the complete reconstruction of Lakeland Drive, and an overlay would be considered deferring the complete reconstruction.

The plans will continue for the trail and quiet zone construction, along with possible lane change improvements on Lakeland Drive from High to Trott Avenues to improve traffic flow. This matter was for information only.

4. SEWER CREDITS REPORT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

Staff recently met with Willmar Municipal Utilities personnel to discuss sewer credits for particularly large users of water that do not return proportionate amounts to the sanitary system due to the processes involved in their businesses. Examples given were J's Bait, Kandiyohi Bottled Water and several irrigators. It was noted that sprinkler use in the summer months is already built into the rate structure, as during the summer months consumers are charged for their sewer based on the average of their winter months. The committee discussed the matter, and it was their consensus that a policy for staff to use to formulate credits should be developed in the future, possibly once a City Engineer is on staff.

5. EFFLUENT CREDITS REPORT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

City staff met with representatives of Donohue and Associates to discuss the matter of effluent credits for phosphorous only. The City could sell credits to other cities within the watershed since the current plant is discharging water

that is substantially below the maximum limit. Willmar is at a disadvantage though because the City is so far up the Minnesota River basin watershed. Cities seeking credits would have to be farther up. The committee felt that the sale of effluent credits would be risky as future compliance limits are unknown. No action was taken.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Wyffels reported the jail census at 87 and the report of calls for the last two weeks at 832.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

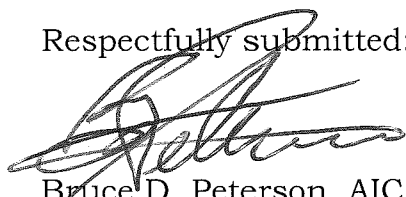
Chief Wyffels informed the committee he was contacted by a citizen with concerns for the pedestrian traffic that crosses Willmar Avenue in the vicinity of the football field at Kennedy School. He requested permission to pursue purchase of two foldable-type standards, three feet high by two feet wide, to place at 10th and 7 ½ Streets on the centerline to alert traffic. The committee concurred with the purchase.

Council Member Ahmann brought up information on chemicals that may be purchased to clean the downtown sidewalks, and also mentioned the Garfield Neighborhood Watch Group and the potential promotion of more groups throughout the City.

Council Member DeBlieck questioned staff on the report of lead contaminates in the gun range of the City Auditorium. Staff reported more information will be brought forward in the near future, including cost estimates for abatement and air handling; but until then the range will be closed.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning & Development Services

Janell Sommers
Recording Secretary